

TRIBUTE TO DR. TOM BLACKWELL

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2006

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the great work of one of my constituents, Dr. Tom Blackwell. Dr. Blackwell is a credit to the medical community in Charlotte, North Carolina, where he serves as an emergency room physician and EMS specialist at Carolinas Medical Center.

In early September, Dr. Blackwell and his team took their hospital on wheels—Carolinas MED-1—to Waveland, Mississippi to care for sick and injured Hurricane Katrina victims.

This mobile medical unit is a one-of-a-kind creation, originally devised by Dr. Blackwell to respond to terror attacks and other national disasters. Its two tractor trailers transform into a 14-bed hospital with operating facilities, radiology, and pharmacy support.

More than 350 doctors, nurses, and other North Carolina medical professionals spent about 2 months in Mississippi—caring for nearly 5,000 patients in a debris-strewn K-mart parking lot. They bravely dealt with life-threatening injuries and other medical needs—from attending to heart attack patients to delivering babies.

Our mobile hospital workers were praised for their effectiveness in the Final Report of the Committee to Investigate the Response to Hurricane Katrina, released on February 15, 2006. Charlotteans and Carolinians alike can be very proud of their neighbors who participated in MED-1's mission to the Gulf Coast, and I thank them for their outstanding service to fellow Americans in need.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2006

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I was absent on Tuesday, February 14, 2006, due to unavoidable circumstances in my Congressional District. Had I been present, I would have voted: Yea to H. Con. Res. 322—Expressing the Sense of Congress regarding the contribution of the USO to the morale and welfare of our servicemen and women of our armed forces and their families; and Yea to S. 1989—the Holly A. Charette Post Office Designation Act.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. FREDDIE HART

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Freddie Hart, a well known Alabamian who will soon have a street dedicated to him in his honor on Friday, February 17, 2006.

Mr. Hart was born Fred Segrest on December 21, 1926 to sharecropper parents in Lochapoka, Alabama. He was later raised in

Phenix City, Alabama. He taught himself to play the guitar at the age of five and only finished school past the second grade. He later pursued his musical interests by getting involved in bands, and landed his first recording contract with Capitol Records. In 1959, his first hit recording was "The Wall." In 1971, his song "Easy Lovin'" went to number one on the charts, won two Grammys, and was named "Song of the Year" for 1971 and 1972 by The Country Music Association. In 1991, he was awarded the Governor's Achievement Award, and in 2001 was inducted in the Alabama Music Hall of Fame.

I am delighted Mr. Hart will soon be honored with this important recognition, and congratulate him for his many accomplishments. It is my honor to pay tribute to Mr. Hart today in the House, and wish him many more years of success.

HONORING THE UTAHNS COMPETING IN THE 2006 WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2006

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, all Utahns have watched with pride and anticipation as the U.S. Olympic team began competing at the Torino Winter Olympic Games this month. I am especially proud of the Utah athletes on the team.

They are Alpine skiers Steve Nyman, Ted Ligety, and Erik Schlopy; Nordic skiers Brett and Eric Camerota, Carl Swenson and Wendy Wagner; Ski jumper Anders Johnson; Freestyler Joe Pack; Bobsled members Shauna Rohbock, Steve Holcomb and Bill Schuffenhauer; and Luge team member Preston Griffail.

Utah is home to a long and distinguished tradition of winter sports. Names like Alf Engen and Stein Erikson are two of the winter sports icons that have helped make Utah synonymous with skiing.

When Utah welcomed the world to the 2002 Winter Olympic Games, we showcased the greatest snow on earth and the finest hospitality. By building world-class winter sports venues, such as the Kearns Skating Oval and the Bear Hollow Bobsled and Luge track and Nordic ski jumps, Utah also became a vital link in our country's support and training system for young athletes.

It has been said—and rightly so—that the Olympic Games are all about the athletes—about the gifted and dedicated men and women who display the drive, the courage and the integrity to represent America on the world athletic stage. With so much tension and trouble around the world today, it is heartening to see the best and the brightest from 80 nations coming together in peaceful competition, celebrating each other's culture and contribution to their sport.

I would like to salute all the athletes, especially my fellow Utahns, who bring us this inspiring and heart-warming interval from the beauty of winter.

HONORING STEVE MESLER, U.S. BOBSLED OLYMPIAN FROM BUFFALO, NY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize 2006 Winter Olympian Steve Mesler. Steve, originally from the West Side of Buffalo, is to compete in the four man bobsled race Friday, February 25. This will be his first time competing in the Winter Olympics, as he served as an alternate in the 2002 games.

Steve Mesler is truly a scholar-athlete. Born and raised in Buffalo, he graduated from City Honors High School in 1996 after participating in four consecutive city track and field championships. He also received the Buffalo Bills Academic/Community Service/Athletic Scholarship. Steve attended the University of Florida with a track and field scholarship. He graduated from the University of Florida, where he is still ranked six all-time among University of Florida decathletes with 6,817 points, with honors for a degree in Exercise and Sports Science.

After ending his track and field career in 2001, Steve traveled to San Diego for bobsled training camp. Although he was new to the sport he learned quickly. Four months after beginning the sport he was selected to travel with the 2002 men's Olympic Bobsled team to Salt Lake City, Utah as an alternate. Steve won his first World Cup medal in 2002–2003 season.

The men's bobsled competition consists of four runs, two runs per day for two days timed to hundredth of a second. The final standings are determined by the total time over the four runs; the winner is the sled with the lowest time. As a part of the nine man Olympic bobsled team, Steve Mesler is expected to push for Todd Hays, the 2002 Olympic silver medalist. Steve has much courage and determination—he and his team have come back from their four man sled crash at the November 2005 World Cup in Lake Placid, NY.

Steve is truly a member of the City of Good Neighbors. He describes himself as a kid from Buffalo having grown up playing street hockey and soccer. He is a die-hard Buffalo Bills fan; his favorite bill was Thurman Thomas, and his family partakes in Buffalo traditions such as tailgating—even when temperatures reach as low as 30 degrees.

The 2006 men's Olympic bobsled team is expected to bring home a medal, and I am proud to have Steve Mesler represent my district, my state, and our country at the 20th Olympic Winter Games in Torino, Italy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2006

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained yesterday and missed Rollcall votes #10 and #11. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Rollcall vote #10 and "yea" on Rollcall vote #11.